THE

Theatrical Observer;

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice."

No. 650 *Tuesday, Dec.* 23, 1823. *Price* 1*d.*

Drury Lane Theatre.

THERE was a full house here last night, attracted by Mr. KEAN'S *Richard*, and *The Cataract*, being announced for the last time. In the two first scenes we noticed that Mr. K. appeared indisposed, and he became so much so in the first scene of the second act, that he advanced and addressed the audience with considerable difficulty to the following effect:—"Ladies and Gentlemen, you will easily guess how severe a mortification it is to me to appear before you in my present situation, as you will readily perceive that I am labouring under a severe hoarseness. Nothing but the fear of disappointing in, however, slight a degree, that public to whom I owe every thing I possess, would have induced me to undertake my character of to-night, but I hope on this occasion you will be so good as to accept the mental, without the physical qualities of *King Richard.*" This address was followed by considerable applause, and Mr. KEAN proceeded with his part, although it was evident that the slightest exertions gave him great uneasiness.

Between the third and fourth acts, Mr. BUNN appeared and said—"Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a source of deep regret to Mr. ELLISTON, that any thing should occur to break in upon the arrangements of this Theatre, but he is sorry to inform you, that the severe illness which Mr. KEAN has been suffering during the whole of the Play, has so much increased, that he is now unable to rise from his couch. Mr. WALLACK has undertaken, at a very short notice, with your permission, the part; and Mr. YOUNGE will appear as *Richmond.* Under these circumstances, therefore, he throws himself upon your indulgence, and hopes to meet with that liberality which he has so frequenly experienced at your hands." This announcement, of course, caused considerable regret, both with reference to the situation of this popular actor, and the disappointment which his illness must have occasioned to many of his admirers. It is but fair to say that Mr. WALLACK acquitted himself of his task in a very spirited way: he had a difficult card to play, for if he had preserved all KEAN's points, he would have been considered a mere imitator, and by introducing new readings, he would have created a diversity, which would not have been pleasing; but to do him justice, he made a very

effective substitute for the great little man. Mr. YOUNGE deserves credit for his zeal, and we have no doubt, he did the best he could, under the circumstances of the case, but one or two of his *readings* were rather comical.—We had—

> Hope never fires, but mounts on eagle's wings,
> Kings it makes gods, and *greater subjects* kings."

This, however, and other matters, we can readily excuse. *The Cataract* overflowed, for the last time, with great effect. "Well done water, by G—" as TURNER said of the Italian Landscape, with its cascade.

Covent Garden Theatre.

THE Tragedy of *Julius Cæsar* was acted here last night, and attended by a numerous audience. The leading characters were, with the exception of *Cassius*, in the same hands that had formerly assisted to render this Play so popular at this house. The withdrawment of Mr. MACREADY from this Theatre, left the part of *Cassius* open to a new candidate for fame in the character, and Mr. COOPER was the bold aspirant. If he did not elicit all the marks of genius his predecessor struck forth, still there was much to commend. He gave the general points of the character some occasional prominence, and there he received applause. Mr YOUNGE's *Brutus* is a very fine performance, but, we think, he has acted the part with more equal eminence. Mr. C. KEMBLE represented *Anthony*, in a most admirable manner. The applause was frequent and loud.

Cortez followed with its former splendid effect.

ADELPHI.—This evening *Tom and Jerry*, and *Quadrupeds*.—On Friday, will be produced a new splendid Pantomime, entitled *Doctor Faustus; or, Harlequin and the Demon.*

OLYMPIC.—There was a numerous assemblage here last night, to witness the performance of *A Race for a Wife, I Won't Go*, and *My Lord*, which delighted in a vast degree.—The same Pieces are to be repeated this Evening. A new Comic Pantomime, will be brought forward here, on Friday next, entitled *The London Apprentices; or, Harlequin's Christmas-Box*, in which Mr. SOUTHBY, (from Drury Lane) will make his first appearance.

The *Theatre of Variety*, Catherine Street, Strand, is nightly filled with a most respectable juvenile Company.—A Pantomime is in forward preparation for the holidays.

☞ IT is respectfully suggested to our Friends to be careful, in going to the Theatre, not to be imposed on by an imitation of this Paper.

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Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

This Evening, the Opera of

THE CABINET.

Prince Orlando, Mr SINCLAIR,
Who will introduce a Song composed by himself
Marquis de Grand Chateau, Mr BLANCHARD,
Lorenzo, Mr PYNE, Peter, Mr RAYNER,
Whimsiculo, Mr FAWCETT, Pietro, Mr LEY,
Count Curvoso, Mr BARTLEY,
Manikin, Mr KEELEY, Leandro, Mr NORRIS,
Falconer, Mr HENRY, Baptista, Mr LOUIS,
Doralice, Mrs PEARCE, Crudelia, Mrs VINING,
Constantia, Miss HAMMERSLEY,
Bianca, Mrs DAVENPORT, Fioretta, Miss PATON,
Leonora, Miss BEAUMONT, Curiosa, Mrs GIBBS.

After which, the Melo-drama of

The Forest of Bondy.

Colonel Gontram, Mr CHAPMAN,
Capt. Aubri, Mr ABBOTT, Macaire, Mr FARLEY,
Lieut. Landry, Mr CONNOR,
The Seneschal of Bondy, Mr EGERTON,
Florio, *(a Dumb Orphan)* Mrs VINING,
Blaise, Mr MEADOWS,
Gertrude, Mrs DAVENPORT, Lucilla, Miss LOVE

In Act I.

A PASTORAL BALLET,

By Messrs Austin, O'Bryan, Collett, J. Cooper,
Grant, Heath, Sutton,
Mesdames Bates, Boden, Louis, Shotter, Twamley,
Vials, Wells.

On Friday, Jane Shore, with [1st time] Harlequin and Poor Robin or, The House that Jack Built.

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening, the Comedy of

The Hypocrite.

Dr. Cantwell, Mr DOWTON,
Maw-worm, Mr LISTON, Seward, Mr YOUNGE,
Sir John Lambert, Mr POWELL,
Darnley, Mr PENLEY, Tipstaff, Mr READ,
Col. Lambert, Mr WALLACK,
Servants, Mess. SUTTON and COLSON,
Old Lady Lambert, Mrs HARLOWE,
Charlotte, Mrs W. WEST, Betty, Miss GREEN,
Young Lady Lambert, Mrs ORGER.

After which, The Ballet of The

Halt of the Caravan.

Including the national Dances of
The Pas Russe—The Spanish Bolero.
A Hornpip A L'anglaise, and a Grand Asiatic Pas de Deux.
Principal Dancers, Mr & Mrs O. BYRNE, Mr & Mrs NOBLE,

To conclude with the Farce of

Simpson and Co.

Peter Simpson, Mr TERRY, Foster, Mr WEBSTER,
Mr Bromley, Mr BROWNE, John, Mr HONNOR,
Mrs Fitzallan, Miss SMITHSON,
Mrs Simpson, Miss BOYCE, Mrs Bromley, Mrs W. WEST,
Madame La Trappe, Mrs ORGER.

On Friday, Jane Shore, with [1st time] Harlequin and Lignum Vitæ or, The Flying Chest.